

Name of Policy: <u>Off-Grounds and Activities Guidelines</u> Policy Number: 3364-122-10 Department: Nursing Service –Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Approving Officer: Chief Nursing Officer & Medical Director Responsible Agent: Nursing Director Inpatient Unit Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center	Effective Date: 4/1/2023 Initial Effective Date: 9/1983
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy <input type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy </div> </div>	

(A) Policy Statement

Milieu activities will be provided for all patients of The Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit as an essential part of the total therapeutic environment.

(B) Purpose of Policy

The milieu must provide the patient with opportunities to succeed, to learn or refine new skills and behaviors, to feel good about himself/herself and others, and to increase the individual's level of physical and emotional wellbeing. To provide guidelines to be followed while planning and implementing activities which are part of the therapeutic milieu for patients.

(C) Procedure

1. Milieu activities are planned collaboratively by the nursing/milieu staff and the responsible treatment team members.
2. Behavioral expectations will be discussed with the patient group by the nursing staff before the activity.
3. Staff will be assigned to accompany patients on recreational activities by the Charge Nurse according to patient needs.
4. In general, staff will accompany patients on a 1:4 basis. Minimum 2 staff.
5. At least one staff accompanying patients must be currently certified in CPR.
6. If Consent Form is not signed by custodial parent/guardian, the patient cannot attend activities.
7. Patients on close observation precautions may attend activities as clinically indicated.
8. If a patient elopes on an activity and other patients are with the staff, the staffs primary concern is to get the patients to a safe area while phoning or contacting the hospital for assistance. Nursing should inform the attending physician and family of the elopement. Please reference AWOL policy 3364.120.74
9. Every effort should be made to apprehend the eloped patient if other patients are safe and supervised.
10. The treatment team may decide to allow a patient who has been admitted less than 24 hours from the time of the planned activity to attend an activity provided the patient is not on suicide or runaway precautions.

11. Decisions about the appropriateness of the activity itself (whether it shall occur), or about the appropriateness of the activity as being therapeutic for the patient (whether the patient participates in the scheduled activity), shall be made by the Charge Nurse after consultation with other team members such as the Physician or Supervisors. The Charge Nurse must decide whether a registered nurse (RN) may need to attend the activity. Those instances under which a RN must attend may include but are not limited to times when patients have medical conditions that require RN monitoring, when patients need medications and/or other unusual circumstances that require RN monitoring.

Factors which influence whether the scheduled activity will be held shall include patient status, availability of sufficient numbers of staff to supervise the activity, weather conditions, availability of appropriate transportation, and availability of sufficient staff to supervise the patients remaining on the Unit.

12. In the rare event that all patients can attend an activity at the same time, and all staff are essential for the activity (ie. medical necessity, staffing ratio), supervisor and the telephone operator on call needs to be notified and time of return needs to be communicated.
13. The Leadership team is always available to the Charge Nurse to assist in decision- making regarding scheduled activities. The Administrative Coordinator will request to talk to the Charge Nurse when any concerns/questions pertaining to the unit or unit activities arise.
14. The Charge Nurse or designees will report to the leadership team any unusual incidents that took place during the outing.
15. If delayed in returning from an activity, the Leadership Team will be notified if possible.

Approved by:		Review/Revision Date:	
/s/		7/1984	5/17/2010
Tamara Cerrone BSN, RN		12/85	4/8/2014
Nursing Director Inpatient Behavioral Health		10/1986	5/26/2016
		1987	6/15/2019
		1988	6/1/2022
		1989	4/1/2023
		1990	
		6/1992	
/s/		1994	
Tanvir Singh, MD		5/1995	
Service Chief		1996	
		5/1997	
		5/98	
		3/1999	
		8/2001	
		1/02	
		3/2004	
		3/2007	
<i>Review/Revision: Lindsay Watson MSW LSW MBA</i>			
		Next Review Date: 4/1/2026	
Policies Superseded by This Policy: 1-M-10			